

HEALTH
12 SEP 1946
C.R.

Devonsey Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 26th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 28/46 dated Feb. 11th, 1946.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 14,292

Population—Estimated Mid. 1945—13,440

Area, 75,828 Acres

Rateable Value : £101,753

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £454 10 6

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of
1945 : 3872

Births, 1945	Male	Female	Total
Live	138	115	253 (42 Illegitimate)
Still	4	5	9 (1 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1945	England and Wales
Live	Live 16.1
Still	Still 0.46

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years 19.3
England and Wales	„ „ 10 „ 15.6

Deaths : Males 79 Females 67 Total 146

Death Rate	10.8	Average last 10 years 11.2
England and Wales	11.4	„ „ 10 years 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 8

Females 2 Total 10

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 39.5

England and Wales 46.0

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 39.8

England and Wales „ „ 10 years 52.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	15 (2 Mil.)	10 (2 Mil.)	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6 (1 Mil.)	1 (1 Mil.)	0
Erysipelas	4	1	0
Measles	233 (1 Mil.)	2 (1 Mil.)	0
Whooping Cough	56	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	0
Dysentery	4 (1 Mil.)	1 (Mil.)	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Only 15 cases were notified during the year, two of which were non-civilian. Eight were during the third quarter of the year and at no time were they anything but sporadic. No death occurred.

Diphtheria. Two cases were notified but one proved to be not the disease. The other was in a child aged ten years but this child had not been immunised. No death was attributed to the disease.

Pneumonia. Six cases were notified and of these one was non-civilian. The five civilian cases were in the first half of the year and none of them died.

The ten deaths given by the Registrar General were, two inward transferable which had not been notified to me, one which had not been notified to me and others were of types not requiring notification.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified in the first half of the year, one was treated in Hospital and one in the institution in which it arose ; none of these cases died.

Measles. 233 cases were notified including one non-civilian, only one of our civilian cases required Hospital treatment and no death occurred. The cases all were in the first three quarters of the year the greatest number being in the second quarter and none being in the fourth.

Whooping Cough. Fifty-six cases of this disease were nearly all in the first quarter of the year. None were treated in Hospital and the one death given by the Registrar General was in a child of seven months in an institution outside the district and not notified to me but considered to belong to the district.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. The one case was in a child of twenty months notified in October and this child has recovered.

Dysentery. Four cases were notified of which one was in a non-civilian. I do not consider this gives a true indication of the prevalence or otherwise of this disease as these cases were notified by one practitioner only and he only notified those cases which had been confirmed bacteriologically.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The one case was in the child of a soldier and was dealt with by the Military Authorities.

Tuberculosis. Sixteen cases of all sorts were notified during the year, of these three were discharges from the services and one was a transfer from another district.

One of those discharged from the services left the district a few days after it had been notified, one other case left soon after notification and one (meningitis) was not notified until the diagnosis had been made in an institution and the patient had died.

The Notifications were:—

Male Pulmonary	1	between 35-45
	1	„ 45-55
	4	„ 55-65
Female Pulmonary	1	„ 15-20
	2	„ 25-35
	1	„ 35-45
Male Non-Pulmonary	1	„ 1- 5
	1	„ 5-10
	1	„ 15-20
	1	„ 25-35
Female Non-Pulmonary	1	„ 10-15
	1	„ 25-35

The Deaths were

Female Pulmonary	1	„ 25-35
	1	„ 35-45

The one between 35-45 had not been notified to me and occurred in an institution outside the district.

The male non-pulmonary was a child age two who was notified after admission to Hospital.

Immunisation. During the year 1945, 248 children under five were immunised against diphtheria while 20 between five and fifteen were done. This brings the total done to the end of the year to 1263 under five and 1901 between five and fifteen.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the district is mainly from shallow wells, although a number of agricultural cottages are connected to farm supplies, details of the number so connected are not available.

There are two parishes supplied by mains: Pewsey has a supply from a well in the parish while Ludgershall has a supply coming from a deep well just outside the District in the County of Hampshire. This, until recently was a private supply and not under the direct control of the district Council, but recently has been acquired by the Andover Rural District while the mains in Ludgershall have become the property of the Council and water is purchased from the Andover Council.

Practically the whole of these supplies are direct to the houses and only about 50 houses in Pewsey are supplied from standpipes.

Supply	No houses Supplied	Population
PEWSEY	503	1739
LUDGERSHALL	385	1598

A shortage of water was experienced in the Collingbourne area and the Council has instructed its consulting Engineer to prepare a scheme for the whole district. At the time of this report arrangements are being made for the sinking of a six inch pilot borehole to a depth of 250 feet in Collingbourne Kingston.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Pewsey Sewage Works have given no trouble during the year except for some difficulty in drying the sludge. By putting less sludge on the drying beds it has been found the period drying has been reduced.

No complaints have been received concerning the small installations which treat the War Department properties in the area.

The Sewer ditches in the various parishes have been maintained in a better condition since local labour has been used for their regular cleansing.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The regular collection of house refuse has continued throughout the year together with some salvage work. The amount of material salvaged during the year was less than the previous year. The tonnage salvaged being—41 tons 16 cwt. approx. value £278 5 0.

Two ten cubic yard freighters and six men are employed on this work.

MILK SUPPLIES

One retail producer's name was removed from the register during the year, otherwise the only action taken was by verbal notice.

The national Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme has done much to improve the general condition of the milk producing premises.

It is much regretted that the sampling and testing of samples in the laboratory had to be discontinued owing to the additional work given to the Sanitary Inspector.

Legal Action. It was not necessary to resort to legal action during the year.

Housing. There is still a shortage of housing accommodation in the district and many cases of overcrowding exist. This condition cannot be remedied until more houses are provided and every effort is being made to provide them.

The repair of existing dwellings is another matter which is not easy to deal with owing to the shortage of materials and labour.

The progress of the Housing Survey and the provisional categories into which the houses have been placed are shown in the following table which is to the end of 1945.

Parish	Categories				Total Inspections
	A.	B.	C.	D.	
Collingbourne Kingston	9	25	21	24	111
Burbage	—	1	—	19	25
Upavon	9	10	15	18	64
Collingbourne Ducis	5	18	11	21	80
Pewsey	11	9	6	17	59
Woodborough	5	14	7	11	47
Wilcot	3	2	26	1	47
Milton	—	1	4	4	16
Enford	—	2	3	1	12
Oare	20	3	5	11	51
Ludgershall	122	55	15	17	241
	184	140	113	144	753

Parish	Houses not definitely placed in Categories	
	B.C.	C.D.
Collingbourne Kingston	4	28
Burbage	4	1
Upavon	6	6
Collingbourne Ducis	11	14
Pewsey	1	15
Woodborough	3	7
Wilcot	5	10
Milton	—	7
Enford	—	6
Oare	2	10
Ludgershall	11	21
	47	125

The preliminary work for the eighteen Swedish Timber Houses is almost complete and the completion of these houses is to be done by direct labour. Up to date (July, 1946) one house is complete.

Tenders have been provisionally accepted for 10 permanent brick houses.

Rodent Control. All cases of infestation are dealt with by a Rodent Operative who is jointly employed by the Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.C., Marlborough Borough and Pewsey R.D.C. The scheme has worked satisfactorily during the year.

The bonus scheme for the destruction of vermin on the Council's refuse dump is still in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	103	87	59	1	59	—	28
Slaughter- houses ...	323	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	29	1	—	—	—	—	1
Places where food is pre- pared ...	92	10	4	—	4	—	6
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkstores	478	37	23	—	9	—	14
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	44	9	—	—	—	—	9
Totals	1074	144	86	1	72	—	58

Not classified above.

Housing Inspections	1146
Infectious Diseases	29

Unclassified Visits and Inspections

Water samples drain testing, refuse collection, byelaws etc. 835

Total 2010

Total No. of visits 3084

Milk and Dairies etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered 1945	169
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered 1945	71

Meat and Foods

Weight of meat condemned during 1945.	30,937 lbs.
Other foods condemned (tinned)	106 tins.
Other foods	760 lbs.

Disease in Slaughter Animals.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	65	544	1299	2027	231
Number inspected	65	544	1299	2027	231

ALL DISEASES**EXCEPT T.B.**

Whole carcasses condemned.	2	7	2	4	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	13	37	8	137	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	23.08%	7.97%	0.77%	6.51%	3.03%

T.B. ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned.	1	24	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	31	165	—	—	21
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	49.23%	33.15%	0.08%	—	9.09%

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	79	67
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough	1	
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.		2
Other form of Tuberc.	1	
Syphilitic Diseases		
Influenza		
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		
Cancer of b. cav; and		
oesoph (M.)		
uterus (F.)		
Cancer of stomach and		
duodenum	3	2
Cancer of breast		1
Cancer of all other sites	6	9
Diabetes		2
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	6
Heart disease	37	22
Other dis. of circ. syst.	2	4
Bronchitis	4	4
Pneumonia	3	7
Other Resp. diseases	1	
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum		
Diarrhœa under two years	2	

Causes of Death	M.	F.
Appendicitis		
Other digest. diseases		1
Nephritis	3	2
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes		1
Premature birth	1	
Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	2	1
Suicide		
Road Traffic Act	2	
Other violent causes	2	
All other causes	5	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	8	2
Legitimate	8	2
Illegitimate		
Live Births		
Total	138	115
Legitimate	113	98
Illegitimate	25	17
Stillbirths		
Total	4	5
Legitimate	4	4
Illegitimate		1
Population	13,440	